PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Gas Supply areas are either non-hilly areas in the West or in Tripura and Assam in the East;

(b) the expenditure involved in supply of gas from these areas to areas like Rajasthan etc. in Central India;

(c) whether any scheme has been drawn to supply gas to these areas through gas pipelines; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether keeping in view the excessive expenditure involved, the Government propose to accelerate the process of oil exploration work in central areas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS(SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Gas has been located in these areas amongst others such as Western Offshore, etc.

(b) The expenditure involved in supply of gas through pipeline depends of factors such as quantity of gas, the distance to be traversed, pressure at which gas is to be delivered, etc.

(c) Gas is being supplied in this area through HBJ pipeline.

(d) Exploration is an ongoing process, which is carried out on the basis of requirement, priorities and availability of resources.

Land Development Programmes

1247. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to continuous drought in Rajasthan small and marginal farmers are not taking interest in Land Development programmes despite availability of loan and grants; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The necessary information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the table of the Sabha on its receipt.

Diversion of Funds of Land Development Programmes to Minor Irrigation projects

1248. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sought the approval of the Union Government for diverting the amount allocated for land development programmes in the implementation of minor irrigation projects; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of Rajasthan had sought such a permission from the Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) No decision has yet been taken for want of desired information from Government of Rajasthan. If the State Government furnishes the desired information their request can be considered.

Waiting List for LPG connections

1249. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons on the waiting list for the LPG connections in the country, State-wise;